

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

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Dr. Dewey F. Mosby, Curator of European Art at the Detroit Institute of Arts, will discuss the work of the important, but little-known 19th-century French painter Alexandre-Gabriel Decamps in a slide-lecture at the Cleveland Museum of Art on Sunday, October 3, 1976, at 3:30 p.m. Decamps' career and his influence on other 19th-century French artists will be examined against the backdrop of the Romantic movement, one of the most tumultuous and interesting periods in European culture.

Decamps, born in Paris in 1803, was a contemporary of Eugene Delacroix and one of the leaders of the Romantic reaction against the classical standards of the French Academy. Like Delacroix, he was one of the first European painters to be stimulated by Oriental subject matter. His travels in Turkey and other parts of the Near East provided the inspiration for the landscapes and scenes of Moslem life which established his reputation. These works, along with views of European country life and an amusing group of paintings called singeries--satirical scenes in which monkeys are engaged in various human occupations--were well-received by critics and the public and readily found buyers.

Together with Ingres and Delacroix, Decamps was awarded the Grand Medal of Honor and given a retrospective exhibition at the 1855 Paris Universal Exposition. He retired to paint in the forest of Fontainebleau near Barbizon, where he died in 1861 as a result of injuries sustained in a riding accident.

Decamps' work is represented in many American museums, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Boston's Museum of Fine Arts, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Detroit Institute of Arts, as well as a number of private collections. In 1972 the Cleveland Museum of Art purchased a black chalk drawing

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entitled A Farmhouse Interior with a Boy at a Table, currently on view in the gallery for 19th-century European watercolors and drawings.

Dr. Mosby, a native of Texas, received his Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1974. The subject of his dissertation was the career of Alexandre-Gabriel Decamps.

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Contact Ann Edwards for more information.
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